



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Maureen F. Gorsen, Director
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSENT DECREE AND 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD LOCOMOTIVE AIR SERVICES, INC., SITE, (FORMERLY CHROME CRANKSHAFT COMPANY) 6845 EAST FLORENCE PLACE, BELL GARDENS, CA

What Is Being Proposed?

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites public comment on a proposed Consent Decree regarding the Locomotive Air Services, Inc., (LASI) site located at 6845 East Florence Place in Bell Gardens. The purpose of the Consent Decree is to settle and resolve DTSC's claims against Varlen Corporation and related entities arising from and relating to hazardous substances releases at the site. The Varlen Corporation and related entities have agreed to pay \$5.1 million which will enable DTSC to investigate and clean up existing releases of hazardous substances and other contaminants at or from the LASI site (formerly known as Chrome Crankshaft Company) and to address any threat to public health and safety and the environment arising from or relating to those releases. Responsible parties have reached a tentative agreement known as a Consent Decree. A Consent Decree is a judicial order that is negotiated and agreed to by the parties and submitted to the court for approval. After it is approved and finalized, it is a court order. The California Attorney General's Office on behalf of DTSC filed the proposed Consent Decree with the Federal District Court on March 28, 2007.

The 2-acre former facility conducted chrome plating operations from 1963 to January 1999. In January 1999, Chrome Crankshaft Company voluntarily stopped plating activities and subsequently removed chrome plating equipment that was used in their plating operations. This "decommissioning" was conducted in August 1999. Thereafter, Chrome Crankshaft Company changed its name to LASI and used the building for a short time to refurbish locomotive air-conditioning units. These operations did not involve chrome plating or the use of hazardous materials. In 2001, these operations ceased and in January 2004 the building was demolished and a temporary asphalt cap was placed on the site. Soil and groundwater contamination occurred from past chrome plating operations. Contaminants detected include hexavalent chromium (known as Chrome VI), nickel, cadmium and volatile organic compounds. The primary concern is the hexavalent chromium that is currently beneath the pavement and in groundwater on the LASI site. The groundwater beneath the site is not used as a source of drinking water. The proposed Consent Decree, if approved, will ensure the availability of funding for cleanup of the site by providing a payment of \$5.1 million which will constitute a complete settlement of costs for LASI, Varlen Corporation and related entities. DTSC will use these funds for cleanup of the LASI site, which will begin later this year. DTSC may supplement these funds with other funds, if necessary, and depending on their availability. Cleanup of the LASI site will be coordinated, to the extent possible, with cleanup of the adjacent J&S Chrome Plating site, since many of the contaminants are the same on both sites.

Why This Notice and Where To Find More Detailed Information

This notice is to provide the interested public an opportunity to learn more about the project and tell us what you think about the proposed Consent Decree for the LASI site. You may view the proposed Consent Decree electronically at: www.dtsc.ca.gov. (Click on LASI listed under Hot Topics, then click on Consent Decree 2007). The proposed Consent Decree and other related project documents are available for public review at:

Commerce Public Library
5655 Jillson Street
Commerce, CA 90040-1493
(323) 722-6660
Call for hours

Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
Contact: Julie Johnson at (714) 484-5337
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm

How Do I Participate and Who to Contact For More Information?

You are invited to comment on the proposed Consent Decree during the 30-day public comment period beginning March 28, 2007 and ending April 27, 2007. All public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed by April 27, 2007, and sent to Mr. Greg Holmes, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA, 90630, e-mail: gholmes@dtsc.ca.gov. For questions about the project contact Mr. Greg Holmes at (714) 484-5461 or Ms. Stacey Lear, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (714) 484-5354 or toll free 1-888-877-5378. Notice to Hearing Impaired: You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Ms. Stacey Lear at the number above regarding the LASI site.